THE RADIO CLUB OF SMITH COLLEGE

REPORT OF CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 1947-1948

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY,
MARJORIE BOSELLY
STATION MANAGER

Research on the possibility of a campus radio station was started in the Fall of 1947. Since there were no undergraduares on campus who were qualified in the field of Radio, the core of what was to become the Steering Committee of Radio Club joined the Intercollegiate Broadcasting system in order to obtain specific information about campus broadcasting. President Davis appointed Miass Mary Arbenz of the Department of Speech as Faculty Advisor. After learning that 90 other colleges were members of I.B.S. and were using wired-wireless transmission, the research group believed that radio at Smith was a possibility and, accordingly, set about organizing the Radio Club of Smith College. In the interest of efficiency, the girls who had been working as the core of Steering Committee were appointed as Divisional Managers in the fields of their special interests, and the Radio Club of Smith College came into existence formally on December 2, 1947. Membership was open to all students desiring this membership, and the Club has, at present, 96 Full Members. The Managers started their Divisions on various fields of research in preparation for broadcasting, and Members of the Faculty lectured onproblems of campus radio.

The Steering Committee hoped that, on the basis of preliminary research, the Station would be a reality by FEbruary, 1948. With this idea in mind, they asked th t Radio be put on the Fall, 1947, Blanket Tax, and the student body showed its support of Radio by voting $2600 towards the establishment of the campus station. However, certain unforseeable technical difficultires arose, and Steering Committee wer no longer able to approximate the date by which the Station would be in operation. Therefore, they asked to be removed from Blanket Tax until they were in a position to tell the student body when the Station could be established. At this time, Radio received a vote of confidence from the House of Representatibes. Therefore, while continuing technical research, the Club polled the student body regarding its preference for types of programs and listening hours. The results of this poll showsed that Classical and Semi-classical music was most popular, and that 7-11 in the evening were thebest listening hours. This information was incorporated by the Radio Club as part of its Station Policy for future years.

While this research was going on, our affiliation with I.B.S. proved helpful because the Club was able to secure drawings of all necessary equipment from this organization. Through I.B.S. regional conventions, we met representatives from other college station. During the Fall of 1947 and Early Spring lf 1948, ther were three I. B.S. regional conventions: One at Brown which Marjorie Boselly and Grace Marshall attended, the second was held at Union College where Barbara Ungerleider and Glo von der Lehr represented Radio Smith, and the third conference waa at Columbia Univ rsity where Judy Emil acted as our representative.

Partly as a result of our Trial Membership in I.B.S., Radio Club received invitations from William College, Yale, Princeton, and

Dartmouth to broadcast over their stations. It was decided that our first broad should be from Williams. On April 17, 1948, the successful broadcast of the original script, "The Secret Life of Sophia Smitty," over WMS marked the broadcasting debut of Radio Smith.

In the meantime, The Steering Commitee of Radio Club was preparing the charter of this organization. The charter was passed by the Club on April 6, 1948, and then it was presented to and passed by Activities Board on April 22, 1948. A few weeks before this, date, however, the Club resigned from I.B.S. because of the financial re-organization of the latter system. Under the new financi l plan, Trial Members,i.e. thos campuses contemplating but not already possessing broadcast facilities, are subject to $25 yearly dues retroactive to the fifteenth of March, 1948. Since, at this time, the certainty of a station had not yet been fully established, Radio Club voted to resign from I.B.S. until the date for the opening of the station was set. By April 22, 1948, however, further technical research had removed the existing difficulties and a campus station was technically possible in the Fall of 1948. In addition to a grant of $50 for the Club running expenses for this year, Activities Board loaned Radio Club the $25 necessary for re-admission to I.B.S. with the stipulation that this loan be repaid within five years of its inception which was April22, 1948.

With the Radio Station a reality for the Fall of 1948, The Advertising Division proceeded to survey the advertising potential of Northampton, and to have contract blanks printed. Mr. Bodden, College Treasurer, verykindly consulted with the Advertising Manager about these contracts. The Assistant Treasurer of the College authorized the establishment, by the Financial Manager, of an account in the name of "The Radio Club of Smith College" at the Northampton National Bank. The Station Manager, Executive Secretary, and Technical Manager continued work on the technical aspect of bringing radio to the Smith campus, and a preliminary estimate, prepared by Mr. Albert D. King of Northampton, was submitted to the House of Representatives by the Station Manager on April 22, 1948. At this time, the Station Manager asked that a vote be taken in the Houses that evening which would pledge the student body to support the Radio on the Blanket Tax for Fall, 1948, to the extent of $2.00 per student. This money would cover the cose of the transmission equipment, screening if necessary, and the studio equipment, of Radio Smith. It was understood the Radio would be on Blanket Tax for the year 1948-1949 only, and that if the cost of the entire system should be less than $2.00 per student, Blanket Tax would automatically be lowered Before collection in the Fall of 1948. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of this pledge; with only 38 dissenting votes among theentire student body. This vote enabled the Station Manager and the Executive Secretary to engage Mr. Albert King to complete a final estimate of the cost of installing the transmission sytem and studio equipment, with the exception of the soundproofing, of Radio Smith. The fourteenth of June was the date tentatively set for the completion of this final estimate which will be submitted, in contract form, to Marjorie Boselly who will then submit it to the College Treasurer for final approval. After this approval is received, the final contracts will be signed and the equipment willbe built during the summer so that the Station will be in operation when the student return in the Fall of 1948.

Elections are being held from Aprill 22 to May 5, 1948, and the new Station Manager, Executive Secretary, and Steering Committee will be installed and start to function on May 7, 1948. This represents, in bried the Activities of the Radio Club of Smith College for 1947-1948.

REspectfully submitted,
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Marjorie Boselly
Station Manager 1947-1948